

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 MARCH 1984

20 March Middle East & South Asia Review
Israel

The TAMI leadership has submitted a draft resolution to the Knesset Secretariat to dissolve the Knesset and hold early elections, IDF Radio announced on 20 March. The Knesset Presidium is now in session to finalize a date for debating and voting on these motions, Jerusalem radio added. According to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres, this vote will take place on 22 March, the radio reported. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir also is holding meetings with Likud ministers and coalition leaders to discuss early Knesset elections, the radio noted. According to one minister at these meetings, the main decision to hold the elections already has been made and it is only their date that must be decided. Meanwhile, the Alignment faction's Executive has decided that the elections should be held on 22 May, Jerusalem radio announced.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shamir had expressed his opposition to early elections in the belief that "great damage" would be caused to present efforts to stabilize the economy, Jerusalem television reported. In the prime minister's opinion, elections at this time would preclude a recovery of the economy for "at least the next 6 months."

Sudan

AWACS — The United States has agreed to supply Egypt with "one or more" AWACS planes, MENA reported on 19 March. However, a spokesman for the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, in a statement carried by JANA on 19 March, warned that should such planes be used to facilitate, cover, or protect an "aggression" against Libya, the Libyan Air Force is capable of reaching and "destroying them." The Omdurman bombing incident took place with U.S. "knowledge and encouragement" to find an "excuse" to force Egypt and Sudan to "allow U.S. strategic spying," the statement added. By seeking U.S. assistance, the "incompetence" of the Egyptian and Sudanese regimes to defend themselves is "fully exposed." In this regard, the "agents" in Egypt and Sudan are reminded of the "utter failure" of the United States to protect such people as the shah of Iran and Egypt's Anwar as-Sadat, the statement concluded.

Further Developments — Sudan has requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the "Libyan aggression" against Sudan, SUNA announced. Meanwhile, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, in remarks cited by MENA, said that the recent Libyan action against Sudan was characterized by "stupidity and adventurism." Nevertheless, the incident must be put in the "right perspective" and not given "any more significance than it deserves." The minister urged "fraternal states" to transform their condemnation into a collective response and warned those who contrive such plots that any attempt to repeat them will be met "in kind."

Meanwhile, Egyptian forces have already taken up positions in Sudan, JANA reported on 20 March, citing Egypt's *AL-AHRAM*. According to JANA, this military move is "tantamount to an official declaration of occupation of Sudan." Libya calls on the world to check these "occupation forces" which not only threaten the Sudanese people, but also are being used to "threaten and provoke" Libya.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil adjourned the 19 March session of the National Dialogue Conference in Lausanne when conferees failed to approve a Lebanese-Saudi-Syrian working paper, Beirut radio reported. "Intensive contacts" and meetings are to take place on 20 March to eliminate obstacles and to achieve a common ground on the disputed subjects, particularly differences of opinion regarding the powers allotted to the president and the prime minister, the radio added. According to the Progressive Socialist Party's clandestine Voice of the Mountain Radio, it was former President Sulayman Franjiyah, supported by former President Camille Sham'un, who had "strongly objected to any encroachment" on presidential powers and enhancing the powers of the prime minister. A "source taking part in the session" told clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that the powers of the prime minister as delineated by the working paper "equal if not exceed" those of the president. Franjiyah also stated that the National Salvation Front "no longer exists" because of differences among its members due to "intransigent stands on basic proposals and nonadherence of the front's members to what was agreed upon in Damascus," Beirut Voice of Lebanon reported.

In other developments, the Security Arrangements Committee failed to meet on 19 March when representatives could not agree on a meeting place, Beirut radio stated. Meanwhile, clashes across the contact lines in Beirut are continuing, the radio reported. According to information received by Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio, "Palestinian groups" ranging from 150 to 200 men arrived in the Sabra and Shatila areas equipped with artillery and rockets on 19 March. Preparations to deploy these men along the contact lines are now being made, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Exchanges of sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued along all fronts, according to the military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 19 March. Iranian forces also continued to reinforce, strengthen, and consolidate positions in the Khaybar operational sector, the communique added. An Iraqi military communique for 19 March carried by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported raids against Iranian units in the area east of Basra and in the east Tigris operational region.

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in remarks cited by Tehran radio, denied reports that Iran had received weapons shipments from the "Zionist regime." Such allegations are a "conspiracy against our nation," he stated.

In a separate development, a Norwegian Foreign Ministry official arrested 2 months ago for being a Soviet spy, has admitted to having worked for "Iraqi intelligence," AFP reported.

Iraqi-Jordanian Relations

Iraq and Jordan signed an agreement fixing and demarcating the international borders between them, INA reported on 19 March.

Two protocols also were signed which organize the border authorities and delineate transportation and the use of water and grazing land in the common border areas, INA added.

Afghanistan

The Soviets have deployed a "large number" of Cuban troops to fight against the Afghan mujahidin, SPA reported citing remarks by a "prominent Afghan leader" as quoted by Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

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SPA: Soviets Deploying Cubans To Fight Mujahidin*LD192029 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 19 Mar 84*

[Text] Islamabad, March 19, SPA -- The Soviets are deploying a large number of Cuban troops to fight Afghan mujahideen, a prominent Afghan leader was quoted as saying by Western diplomatic sources here today.

Muhammad Khaled Farouqi, a mujahideen leader who fought in the Orgun front in Afghanistan's eastern Paktia Province said the mujahideen had ample proof of Cuban presence in Afghanistan, adding that the mujahideen had captured a number of Cubans.

Karmal New Year Message Stresses Peace, Security*LD200722 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 20 Mar 84*

[Text] Kabul, March 19, BAKHTAR — Babrak Karmal has reiterated Afghanistan's desire to have good relations with its neighbours regardless of having different socioeconomic systems, to live with them in an atmosphere of peace and security and to promote friendship and mutual cooperation.

In his televised message on the eve of the Afghan new year (beginning tomorrow) Babrak Karmal said that "we have always expressed our readiness for ensuring peace and security in the region and the necessary steps have always been taken for achieving these ends."

General secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA said that peace and security in the region, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness are the urgent needs of the time, which are desired by all the Muslim and working people of Afghanistan, same as the people of Pakistan, Iran and other countries and that the government of the DRA will be taking all the necessary measures for the attainment of these goals.

Babrak Karmal called upon the governments of the neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Iran to take the objective facts of the region and the time into account and to review their unrealistic policies vis-a-vis the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and to respond positively to the reasonable stand of the DRA with a view to resolve the issues through negotiations based on goodwill, and mutual respect.

"There exists a rational basis in the proposals of the DRA for the solution of the issues around Afghanistan. In our view, the Geneva talks contain positive aspects, we are looking forward for its continuation and expect that such contacts would provide the ground for direct talks between the interested countries," Babrak Karmal emphasised.

However, he said, our neighbours do not give a positive response to the righteous approach of the DRA. We are confident that our neighbouring brothers, the peoples of Pakistan and Iran who have strong historical ties with the people of Afghanistan, understanding the correctness of the stand taken by the DRA will persuade their governments to respond to the call of the DRA for restoration of an atmosphere of peace and security in the region.

Babrak Karmal said that the foreign policy of Afghanistan is not only directed towards the stabilisation of peace and security in the region but "we consider it our main duty to defend peace and security in the international arena. Pursuing this policy, the state of the DRA strongly condemns the strivings of imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism directed towards the intensification of tension in the world and intervention in the internal affairs of independent countries and its militaristic and war-mongering policy."

Reviewing the achievements of the revolutionary state in the Afghan Year, Babrak Karmal noted that thousands of former counter-revolutionary bands joined hands with their revolutionary government and the party and took part in the defence of the April Revolution. As also, the security forces of the DRA were able to deal crushing blows to the counter-revolution.

In the context of democratisation of the life of people and society, Babrak Karmal said that the law of local organs of the state power and administration was enacted for the first time in the history of the country which lays a firm foundation for the creation of a real democracy and for the successful activity of the new, democratic and really popular local organs.

Referring to development of national economy, Babrak Karmal said that the gross national product grew by six per cent. Successes were also scored in the spheres of trade, transport, social services, education, public health as well as in communications. The party and the state of the DRA gave considerable attention to the peasants of the country by providing them with loans on easy terms, fertilizers, improved sowing seeds, agricultural tools, machinery and other items. As a result of these steps, the agricultural and livestock yields showed all round increase. Babrak Karmal expressed the confidence of scoring ever further successes in these spheres in the new year 1363 which would be a year of peace, progress and prosperity.

Second Conference of Ulema, Clergy Held 16 March*LD170948 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 16 Mar 84*

[Excerpts] The second conference of DRA ulema and clergy was held this morning at the Intercontinental Hotel. The conference was attended by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

The conference was chaired by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, Politburo member, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and chairman of the NFF Central Council, and formally opened after the recitation of verses from the holy Koran.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that after the reading of the conference agenda by the session chairman, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand spoke about the policy and measures of the party and the revolutionary government regarding the sacred religion of Islam:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, the DRA Council of Ministers, and of

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, I congratulate you on the convening of the second conference of DRA ulema and clergy.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand explained the revolutionary government's policy regarding the sacred religion of Islam: The experience of Islamic countries such as the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria, Syria, Libya, the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen and, finally, the experience of Afghanistan itself proves that revolutionary transformations are not inconsistent with the social content of Islam and its historic invitation to justice, equality, and opposition to exploitation of man by man. On the contrary, it paves the way for the practical implementation of these principles in accordance with the historic desires of the toiling Muslim masses, with proper perception and utilization of the values of the sacred religion of Islam.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports from the conference of ulema and clergy that the draft organizational plan and activities of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy was then read by Mawlawi Mohammad Rabani Khatebi and approved unanimously.

Mawlawi Rahmatullah Rahmat then proposed the new members of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy. They were unanimously elected.

The new members of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy then convened their first session and elected a chairman, vice chairmen, and a secretary.

Sa'id Afghani, elected chairman of the DRA High Council of Ulema and Clergy, then made a speech.

Saleh Mohammad Ziray, chairman of the session, announced the end of the session's work: The documents and decisions of the jirga and conference of ulema and clergy have great Islamic, national, and human importance. The practical realization and implementation of these documents and decisions can help and direct the Muslim toilers of our country in the construction and prosperity of our country — Afghanistan. I ask Almighty God to give us the ability to work for the implementation of the decisions of the jirga and conference of ulema and clergy.

The work of the conference of ulema and clergy ended after a prayer by Mawlawi Gol Mohammad Ada.

Keshtmand Address

LD182215 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 18 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 17, BAKHTAR — The Government of the DRA has spent over 140 million afghanis in the past three years on the construction of new mosques and the repair of the old ones.

This was stated by S.A. Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers at the second national conference of the religious leaders and clergymen held here on March, 16.

Citing an example of the attention paid by the government to the religion of Islam, S.A. Keshtmand said that the assistance provided by Government of the DRA to the Afghan pilgrims has been mounting year by year. In 1981, 1800 pilgrims had taken advantage of the government's facilities whereas in 1983, over 5000 pilgrims benefited from the government's assistance. The amount of assistance given to them reached 272 million afghanis in 1983 alone.

Establishing friendship and solidarity with all the countries and the peoples of the world including the Moslem countries constitute an unshakeable principle in the policy of the PDPA and state of the DRA, S.A. Keshtmand noted.

The state of the DRA, he emphasized, would keep up its friendly and peaceful policy, defend the interests [word indistinct] Moslems, and no pressure and force would be able to detract us from the path we have chosen.

The party and state policy in regard to land reforms stipulated that all peasants become the owners of land and have water at their disposal. As also, the party and state endeavour to rid them from the captivity of the usurers.

S.A. Keshtmand in [words indistinct] traders of the government's support and their protection against foreign competition.

The party and the state consider their duty to lay out the plan to step up the participation of the youth and women in the revolutionary transformation of the country, the chairman of the Council of Ministers concluded.

Karmal Praises Clergy, Urges Jihad Against Rebels

LD180837 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT
16 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, today had lunch with the DRA ulema and clergy and guest delegations who took part at the jirga of ulema and clergy in the Delkosh Palace, headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

The BIA correspondent reported that Babrak Karmal in his brief speech addressing the ulema and clergy of the country, said: In your three sessions, you have discussed important and vital issues. The proceedings of the ulema and clergy session and the second conference of the DRA High Council of Ulema and Clergy showed that the patriotic and noble clergy of the country with full perception and awareness are standing on the side of the DRA Government and revolutionary sovereignty in utilizing their Islamic and human mission to restore peace and security in the country and for complete victory of the April Revolution which guarantees social justice in the country.

Babrak Karmal added: I congratulate you, the noble ulema and clergy of the country, on the successful conclusion of your jirga and conference.

The documents you have approved during your sessions, and in which you enjoined people to righteousness, peace, and justice,

are enjoying much importance. These documents once again show that the noble ulema and clergy of the country are aware of their crucial human and Islamic duties.

Babrak Karmal said: The PDPA and the DRA Government, perceiving their historic duty, are working indefatigably for the well-being and prosperity of Muslim and toiling people of Afghanistan and for the restoration of a calm and peaceful atmosphere for work and life of the people, for progress and development of the country, and for equal rights for all the country's nationalities, tribes, and clans. This is the path of righteousness, benevolence, and justice. But the mercenary hellish bands of sin and crime, on the orders of the great satanic power of our time — that is to say the criminal U.S. imperialism — are spreading the seeds of death and destruction. They embark on subversion and crime; they kill elders, old women, youths, children and even our patriotic and noble ulema and clergy; they plunder the public and national wealth; they commit robbery and set fire to schools and religious centers.

The murdering bands are following the wrong path, the path of wickedness and treachery, the satanic path.

In addressing the ulema and clergy, Babrak Karmal said: Is jihad not allowed, not permissible against these bands, these murdering and criminal bands, traitors to the homeland and people? With one voice and from the depths of their hearts and with resoluteness, all ulema and clergy raised their voice and said that jihad is permissible and that they are prepared to take part sincerely in this holy jihad.

Administration Units, State Plan, Budget Endorsed

LD190724 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 18, BAKHTAR — The formation of two new administrative units have been endorsed by the Politburo session of the PDPA CC held here on March 17 under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

One of the new units to be established is Ministry of Foodstuffs and Light Industries and the other is the Civil Aviation Administration.

The Ministry of Foodstuffs and Light Industry is established to improve the activity of the light industry enterprises and to step up the foodstuff production in the country.

General Administration of Civil Aviation under the Council of Ministers established in order to ensure better management and coordination of the affairs related to air transport.

The Politburo session also defined the duties and responsibilities of the zonal and provincial organs of the state power for the effective enforcement of state power in the localities.

The Politburo session also endorsed the state plan and the budget for the coming Afghan year (beginning March 21, 1984).

Concerning the state plan and budget, Babrak Karmal gave concrete directives to the concerned planning and financial agencies for the removal of flaws existing in their full implementation.

He added in this connection that despite the economic banditry of the counter-revolution, the economic position of the country was relatively stable in the current year just ending and the budget and plan of the next Afghan year has been drawn realistically.

Ziray Addresses NFF Executive Committee

LD200744 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Kabul, March 19, BAKHTAR — The periodic session of the Executive Committee of the Central Council of the National Fatherland Front of the DRA (NFF) was held here. The session was presided over by Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA CC.

At the beginning Saleh Mohammad Ziray spoke about the duties which were assigned by the 13th plenum of the PDPA CC for the social organizations to intensify the struggle against the counter-revolutionary elements. Moreover, he shed light on the necessity to set up local organs of the state power.

At the session, the budget of the NFF for the Afghan year 1363 (beginning March 20, 1984) and the plan of the NFF for the first six months were approved.

Diplomats Cited on Abdol Qader's Replacement

BK201049 Hong Kong AFP in English 1044 GMT 20 Mar 84

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP) — The Afghan defense minister, Major General Abdol Qader, is reported in Kabul to have been replaced by a Communist Party official who is said to have close ties with Moscow, Western diplomats said here today.

The Afghan charge d'affaires here, Sharif Folad, asked to comment on the reports, said he had no knowledge that such a change had been announced. But he declined to comment further on the reports, which were first repeated outside of Kabul by Afghan rebels in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar.

According to the accounts received by the diplomats, General Qader did not appear in public last Wednesday for a military parade in Kabul that was attended by President Babrak Karmal. General Qader was said to have been sent to the Soviet Union for a training course, a formula often used to hide an official's falling into disgrace.

His successor was named as Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammed Aslam Watanjar, according to the diplomats here, who were not specific as to their sources in Kabul. Colonel Watanjar, 38, a key Afghan party official, was trained in the Soviet Union, and had served as defense minister under President Nur Mohammed Taraki in 1978. If Colonel Watanjar's appointment were confirmed, the diplomats said, it would be viewed as a new step in a process of giving the military a harder line to improve its performance against the rebels. That process, long advocated by Pres-

ident Karmal, began in earnest in January, when three generals known for their pro-Soviet, hard-line attitude against the rebels were named deputy defense minister, chief of staff and chief of military operations.

Western diplomats have said that General Qader, 40, was wounded last May in his Kabul office by his deputy, identified only as General Khalilullah, after a quarrel. The diplomats believed at the time that General Khalilullah had been disgraced by the incident. But General Khalilullah was recently named the military and civilian coordinator for the northwestern region of Afghanistan, one of the most important theaters of operation in the country.

Karachi Reports on Mujahidin Activities

Helicopter Shot Down

*BK161658 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
16 Mar 84*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Soviet military helicopters and aircraft heavily bombarded Shah Juy subdivision of

Zabol Province, killing or wounding a number of civilians. According to a news agency report, the Soviet planes carried out indiscriminate bombings on the civilian population, causing heavy damage. The mujahidin shot down a military helicopter. They also killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers in an encounter in the industrial area of Baghlan city.

Military Trucks Destroyed

*BK170550 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
17 Mar 84*

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked a military post of the Karmal administration in Herat Province, killing three and injuring two Soviet-Karmal soldiers. The mujahidin also captured three soldiers.

Another report says that Afghan mujahidin destroyed three military trucks of Soviet-Karmal contingents by laying landmines in the (Kusher) area of Lowgar Province. All passengers in the trucks were either killed or injured.

Akali Dal President Charged With Sedition

BK201559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] In Amritsar, the Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has been charged with sedition and a case registered against him. The charge has been made for bringing out a seditious pamphlet.

Sikh Student Organization Declared Illegal

BK200308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] The center has declared the All-India Sikh Students Federation [AISSF] an illegal association with immediate effect. A Home Ministry notification issued in New Delhi last night says the action has been taken under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. According to the notification, the AISSF has been organizing training camps and conventions in various parts of the country to preach secession and incite communal feelings among the people. The federation has also been delivering speeches which are prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony and unity among various communities.

President's Rule in Punjab Extended 6 Months

BK191613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
19 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The Lok Sabha has approved the continuance of president's rule in Punjab for another 6 months. It was to expire on 5 April. The house today also passed the Punjab budget for 1984-85 and the supplementary demands for 1983-84. The home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, who moved the resolution for the continuance of president's rule, said the government is ready to resume talks with the Akalis to find a solution to the Punjab tangle. The government has not put any conditions for the talks, he said. Mr Sethi refuted the opposition allegation that the government does not want a negotiated settlement of the problem. The home minister also maintained that the situation in the state has improved in certain respects after the imposition of president's rule. He assured the house that the government will try to improve it further both administratively and politically. Mr Sethi did not agree with the opposition charge that the center is following a policy of drift on the Punjab issues.

Replying to the points raised by members on the Punjab budget, the minister of state for finance, Mr S.M. Krishna, informed the house that the state has taken tremendous strides in implementing the 20-point program. He also said that power projects in the state are in various stages of completion.

During the discussion, members emphasized the need for an amicable settlement of the Punjab tangle. They said communal violence should be condemned by all. An opposition member urged the Akalis not to mix religion with politics. Another member said that religious places should not be allowed to be used by antisocial elements.

Transport Minister Appeals to Striking Dock Workers

BK200935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] The shipping and transport minister has appealed to the striking port and dock workers to resume negotiations in the national interest. Mr Vijaya Bahskara Reddy was replying to a calling attention motion by Mr Kalyanasunderam, CPI, and others. Referring to the demand of calling off the Navy from the ports, the minister said the government has to maintain the supply of essential commodities like oil, coal, and kerosene. The strike has brought cargo handling at major ports to a standstill. It has disrupted the supply of essential commodities which is likely to affect the common man. The minister said the government has to take the necessary steps. Referring to the members' plea for the acceptance of demands of workers, the minister said the government has offered a 15 percent increase, but the workers want a 32 percent rise. Mr Reddy said this is not reasonable. He said the strike is illegal as it began when conciliation proceedings were on. Mr Reddy described the law and order situation at all the ports as peaceful by and large.

During the debate, Mr Kalyanasunderam and several others referred to the violence at Paradeep. They demanded an enquiry into the incident. The shipping minister said it has no connection with the ports strike.

The Lok Sabha is to have a special discussion on the port and dock workers strike. This was announced by the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, today.

The Madras Port Trust authorities today said that they have no plans at present to deploy naval personnel. A spokesman of the Port Trust told newsmen that the strike situation remains unchanged with 15 vessels waiting outside. Meanwhile, at Mormugao port essential services staff reported for duty from the second shift yesterday in accordance with the agreement to exempt certain important categories from the purview of the strike. According to the port authorities the strike continues to be peaceful.

Lok Sabha Briefed on 14 March Imphal Incident

BK200913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
20 Mar 84

[Text] Seventeen persons have been apprehended and inquiries are in progress in connection with the incident near Imphal on the 14th of this month in which some unidentified gunmen opened fire on a Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] party near the venue of a volleyball match. Fourteen persons are reported to have been killed in the incident, including one CRPF and one Manipur Rifles personnel.

This information was given to the Lok Sabha today by the home minister, Mr Sethi. He was replying to a calling attention motion moved by Mr Ram Avtar Shastri, CPI, and others on the reported growing activities of insurgents in the northeastern region and steps taken by the government to meet the situation.

Mr Sethi said 38 persons were reportedly injured in the incidents, of whom 34 were hospitalized. One person belonging to the CRPF and one civilian are in serious condition. The insurgents, suspected to belong to the People's Liberation Army [PLA], took hold of four weapons of the CRPF personnel who were killed or seriously injured.

The home minister informed the house that the situation in and around Imphal is under control. The markets have opened and are functioning normally. Security measures have been stepped up in the area. According to the latest report the body of one of the assailants injured in the firing has been recovered. He has been identified as (Swapan Birajit Singh), a PLA leader. The body is believed to have been dumped on a roadside near (Tarunku) by persons traveling in a car. The car and its drivers have been taken into custody and investigation is in progress.

The house was told that there has been some extremist activity in Manipur, Tripura, and Mizoram. However, there has been no significant extremist activity in Nagaland and Assam in the recent months. Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh have been peaceful.

'Insurgents' Reportedly Camped in Bangladesh

*BK201240 Delhi Domestic Service in English : 230 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] Insurgents in the northeastern region are reported to have organized some camps in Bangladesh. The government is getting in touch with the Bangladesh Government in this connection. This information was given by the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, in reply to a calling attention motion on the insurgent activities moved by Mr Ramavtar Shastri, CPI, and others in the Lok Sabha today. Denying that there has been an increase in the activities of insurgents in the region, Mr Sethi said the situation is now well under control.

Nearly 60 Arrested in Orissa Labor Incident

*BK200330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] Nearly 60 people have been taken into custody for yesterday's incidents at Paradeep in Orissa. The situation is officially stated to be improving. The prohibitory order, which was promulgated yesterday, continues in the port and adjacent areas.

Over 90 Arrested Following Clashes in Calcutta

*BK191644 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
19 Mar 84*

[Text] In the West Bengal assembly today, members expressed deep sorrow over the murder of the deputy commissioner of police and his bodyguard yesterday in violent incidents at the Garden Reach area in Calcutta.

A Congress-I member tabled an adjournment motion to discuss the incident, which the speaker disallowed.

The situation in the area is fully under control. The city police commissioner told our Calcutta correspondent that dusk to dawn curfew will be reimposed today as a precautionary measure. Over 90 people have been taken into custody.

External Affairs Ministry's Annual Report Cited

*BK200429 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] India believes that the induction of an unprecedented level of sophisticated weapons in the subcontinent poses serious security problems for the country. The annual report of the External Affairs Ministry says the type of weapons acquired by Pakistan from the United States and other sources will upset the existing military balance not only between India and Pakistan but in the South Asia region as a whole. Despite this, India will continue its efforts to ensure the process of normalization between the two countries.

Accordingly, the thrust of India's policy of friendship and cooperation with Pakistan has been maintained. The meeting of the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission in June last year and subsequent meetings of the subcommissions in January this year were concrete manifestations of these efforts.

Referring to the increasing naval and military presence of big powers in the Indian Ocean, the report says this not only poses dangers of armed conflict but also a great threat to sovereignty and independence of the Indian Ocean littoral states. The non-aligned and the Commonwealth summits held in Delhi fully endorsed India's views and aspirations in this matter.

On India's efforts to improve relations with China, the report recalls that an attempt was initiated by the two sides to evolve a mutually agreed set of principles on the boundary question to serve as guideline for future discussions.

It expressed India's deep concern over the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka in which Indian nationals suffered heavy casualties and loss of property.

The report notes that an agreement on the sharing of Tista waters was signed with Bangladesh during the year. Discussions are continuing on the augmentation of the Ganges water at Farakka and on the infiltration of people from Bangladesh into India.

India has been seeking to enlarge areas of cooperation with its other neighbors, namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, and Maldives.

It says there has been sustained improvement in Indo-U.S. relations despite differences in perception on a number of regional and global questions.

India's friendly and cordial relations with the Soviet Union and other East European countries developed satisfactorily during the year.

Venkataraman Discusses Pakistani Military Exercises

*BK200921 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman, told the Rajya Sabha today that the exercise carried out recently by the Pakistan Army across the border was the largest of the kind. He said India as such has to keep itself prepared to meet any eventuality. Mr Venkataraman said there have been 11 cases of intrusion into our territory during the past 3 years. There had been violation of airspace also, both from Pakistan and Chinese sides. The government has taken up the matter with the Governments of Pakistan and China at diplomatic level.

Mr Venkataraman reiterated the government's desire for normalizing the relations with the two countries but, he said, in the case of large scale acquisition of arms by Pakistan we have always to keep defense prepared.

In reply to a supplementary, the minister said there is nothing wrong in the Armed Forces commander holding a press con

ference. He said this when his attention was drawn to a press conference held by the general officer in command of the Northern Command.

Defense Official on Indian Ocean Tension

*BK191404 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 19 Mar 84*

[Text] The union minister of state for defense, Mr K.P. Singh Deo, has said that while India is all along seeking peace and stability everywhere in the world and pleading to keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, the geopolitical situation around the country is surcharged with tension and the Indian Ocean area is being converted into a playground for superpower rivalry. In such a situation, the minister said, it is essential for us to have strong balanced Navy to ensure peace in the Indian Ocean area and defend our coastline. He was speaking at the launching of *Gumti*, a frigate being built by Indian Navy at Mazagaon dock in Bombay today.

U.S. Envoy Summoned Over Jerusalem Embassy Plan
BK201607 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
 20 Mar 84

[Text] Pakistan has expressed serious concern to the U.S. Government over the steps it is taking regarding shifting of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and has said that these steps will not only affect the reputation and prestige of the United States in the Islamic state but will also evoke strong reaction from the U.S. public. The U.S. ambassador to Pakistan was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday and was apprised of Pakistan's concern over these steps, which are tantamount to provoking the sentiments of the Islamic community.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Government of Pakistan fully hopes that the U.S. Congress will not approve the resolution regarding shifting of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The spokesman said that the Islamic states are acting individually and collectively to express the serious concern of the entire Islamic world over these steps. A committee comprising the ambassadors of Pakistan, Senegal, Malaysia, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia has been set up in Washington to get in touch with U.S. politicians and legislative institutions and appraise them of the serious concern and anguish that will be created in the Islamic world as a result of these steps.

The spokesman said that the decision of the U.S. Government on shifting the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will be prejudicial to the UN resolution and decisions of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement. Jerusalem is the gravest aspect of the issue relating to occupied areas since 1967. The spokesman said that the 13 countries which had earlier shifted their embassies to Jerusalem had also moved their embassies back to Tel Aviv in line with the UN resolution which asked all the member states not to accept Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Zia: Goal of Islamic Democracy Has Been Set
GF191611 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Mar 84 p 6

[Text of President Ziaul Haq's speech at Peshawar on 12 March]

[Excerpt] We have experienced western democracy many times. Many times illusions have been created in the name of western democracy. We have tested its fruits which were all bitter and sour. Now we want to plant our own sapling of democracy. Our soil is quite suitable and fertile for this sapling. This sapling will, inshallah [God willing], take roots, grow stronger and flourish because it is an Islamic sapling.

Why can't it be done? We have been claiming for the last 1400 years, and rightly so, that Islam is a complete code of life. Is there nothing in this code about the form of government? Are there no guiding principles? Is there no guidance? We all know that it is there. When we are making all-out efforts for the enforcement of Islam in other walks of life, there is no reason why politics and government should be excluded. Since in accordance with the wishes of the people and the demands of the ideology of Pakistan, we are determined to lay the foundations of an Islamic form of government and Islamic democracy in Pakistan. Inshallah, we shall make a beginning this very year. Let us pray for success.

For this noble purpose, I appeal to the people of the Frontier and through them to the entire nation to cooperate with the Government. They should beware of antidemocratic manipulations done in the name of democracy and should not lend ears to those vested interests which are bent upon misleading the people. March, 1985, is not far away. But March, 1985, we shall Inshallah, implement the programme which was announced on August 12, and which I have been elaborating from time to time. We shall, Inshallah, complete it. It is a very important time for the nation. We can achieve our goal by adopting a responsible attitude and maintaining an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity this year. The goal of Islamic democracy has been set. The target is in sight. Let us resolve to work according to the programme to reach the goal and achieve the target. I assure you that as God has helped us in other spheres, He will also help and guide us in establishing Islamic democracy.

"Now I would like to make some important announcements. For the Frontier Province, I want to present one or two small gifts to Gen Fazle Haq. First of all, a sum of Rs. 50 Lakh is being given to the Frontier Province for rural electrification programme.

"We should thank God for his bounties and pray that He may keep us under His protection. Recently there was an earthquake which affected Frontier Province the most. I donated Rs. 50 lakh on behalf of the federal government to Gen Fazle Haq for the rehabilitation of the affectees.

"As I said earlier, the setting up of the Islamic judicial system for the enforcement of Islamic order shall begin from the Frontier Province. We shall, Inshallah, set up Qazi [judge] courts in the whole of the Malakand division.

"It is the right of every citizen of Pakistan that he should be provided with opportunities for entertainment and recreation. The people of Peshawar need a public park for recreation. There is a tract of land on Jamrud Road near the city of Peshawar which belongs to the army. After settling details with Gen. Fazle Haq on behalf of the federal government and the army we will donate this piece of land and required fund so that a good park may be built there.

"Now I want to announce some important points in this historic gathering in the context of Islamic system."

1. Elections will, Inshallah, be held in accordance with the Islamic Shar'ah. I want to repeat that elections will be held strictly in accordance with Islamic Shar'ah.
2. Constitutionally, the sovereignty of Almighty Allah will be established.
3. The head of the state and all elected people, including the administration, will be the functionaries of only Allah and the holy Prophet (peace be upon him).
4. All conceptual contradictions in the constitution will be removed. Islam will be our religion. Islam will be our politics. Islam will be our economy. Only Islam will be the code of life of every Pakistani.

5. True Islamic equality will, Inshallah, be established in Pakistan.

6. From our point of view, every citizen has dignity and honor and deserves respect. Every person in the system of government will receive respect on the basis of his ability and not his office.

7. Those who transgress the moral and political limits fixed by Allah will not be recognised as people of opinion. A drunkard, a smuggler and a person who had crossed the Hudud [prescribed limits] of Allah, has no right to give his opinion.

8. Next elections will, Inshallah, prove to be the basis for the unity of Islamic ummah in Pakistan. As a result of these elections, the society will be freed from the clutches of professional political monopolies.

9. The mode of elections will be devised not on the basis of lust for power and adventurism but on ability and consultation.

Far-reaching amendments will be made in the election laws. As I have just said, drunkards, adulterers, thieves, dacoits, smugglers, cattle-lifters and all anti-state and anti-social elements should reform themselves before the elections, otherwise we are not to be blamed.

Under the election laws, political leadership will, Inshallah, go to the noble and intellectual middle-class which has hitherto been ignored. Let it be clear to those wishing for confederation, autonomy and family rule that Pakistan will not be left to their negative politics. The fundamental principle of politics will be that the individual owes his existence to his nation and is nothing without it.

"I want to state the next point not apologetically but quite openly that those who fight for Allah are accorded the highest place in the society. The doors of the assemblies will not be open for the corrupt. And those who do not possess the required ability or are not upto the Islamic standard, those elected members who cross the Hudud of Allah, will be disqualified.

"In the end, I assure the nation that power is not my objective. I only want the sovereignty of Allah and the rule of Islamic Shar'ah for which I only seek your support and cooperation. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Gen. Fazle Haq and Mr Arbab Jehangir, for providing me with this opportunity to explain the outlines of the future Islamic state of Pakistan at this historic

gathering today. Just as the 1946 referendum was the beginning of Pakistan, today's meeting will be the starting point for the future Islamic system of Government in Pakistan.

Pakistan Paindabad." [long live Pakistan]

PPP Leaders Consider Changes in Party Stance

GF191658 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Mar 84 p 10

[Text] Lahore, March 14: Mian Ehsanul Haq, member of the Central Committee of the defunct Pakistan People Party (PPP), disclosed here on Wednesday that changes in the party manifesto with regard to the issue of provincial autonomy were being considered by top PPP leaders who were currently abroad. The party had also been in touch with Baluch leaders so that it could take a stand on the issue which was acceptable to the people of all provinces.

Mian Ehsan said that the 1973 constitution provided for greater provincial autonomy 10 years after the date of its promulgation, but martial law had disrupted the process.

Mian Ehsan welcomed the Jamaat-i-Islami's proposal for a broader-based political alliance. It was good to know that the Jamaat had at last recognised the fact that government policies had been aimed at creating ill-will among political parties so as to isolate them from each other and then to suppress them one by one, he said. The PPP leader recalled that chairperson Nusrat Bhutto had decided to hold negotiations with the Jamaat, and had deputed Mr Farooq Leghari for this purpose, but the Jamaat's response at the time had been far from encouraging.

The time was now ripe, Mr. Ehsanul Haq said, for political parties to form a grand alliance on the basis of minimum programme of action for the restoration of democracy. Mian Ehsan regretted that political leaders in the smaller provinces were receiving discriminatory treatment. While most leaders from the Punjab and NWFP had been freed, those belonging to Sind were still under detention. He urged their immediate release.

The PPP, he said, would oppose the partition of the Punjab into two or more provinces, and warned that continued martial law would jeopardise the very future of federation. He called upon the people of the Punjab to discharge their duties as the citizens of the largest province in the country.

Spokesman Urges Condemning Chemical Warfare
LD191903 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
 19 Mar 84

[Text] At the conclusion of the mission of the delegation sent by the UN secretary general to the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate the use of chemical weapons by the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Iraq, the spokesman of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in an interview:

The dangerous and calamitous dimensions of the use of chemical weapons by Saddam's regime will not remain confined to the battlefronts of the war imposed by Iraq upon Iran. The violation of this international convention, especially in such a flagrant and extensive manner and to the extent that the commander of Iraq's 3d Division clearly has confessed to it, can result in calamities for all humanity.

He added: The Iraqi regime's disregard for international laws and human principles and the lack of an appropriate response by various countries and international organizations toward the inhumane actions of that regime in the past has reached such a point that even during the presence of the UN delegation in Iran, the Iraqi regime twice made use of chemical weapons on a few southern fronts. Therefore, in view of numerous documented facts and the evidence that the delegation collected during its stay in Iran and in view of the inspections that were made on the spot and examinations of those who had fallen victim to the use of chemical bombs, we expect the delegation to complete its report as soon as possible and to submit it to the UN secretary general.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman concluded: In our view, the time has now come for various countries of the world and international organizations and bodies to clarify their position concerning the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, which can be called a crime against humanity, and to condemn and stop the inhuman behavior of the Iraqi regime, whose dangerous dimensions are clear to all, through decisive measures. Silence concerning these crimes or a nonchalant attitude toward them will, in fact, be tantamount to approving the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. Undoubtedly, the consequences of such an attitude would bring about numerous calamities for humanity.

Musavi Comments on Islamic Revolution, War
LD191817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
 19 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Glorious memorial ceremonies were held this afternoon at the Shahid Motahhari High School to honor the memory of the brave commanders of the corps of Islam, Martyr Hajj Mohammad Ebrahim Hemmat, commander of the Mohammad Rasul al-Allah Division; his deputy, Martyr Akbar Hejazi; and other martyrs of the proud Khaybar operations. Various strata of the people and families of the martyrs were present at the memorial ceremonies.

According to our correspondent, the ceremonies were attended by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; Ayatollah Mahdavi-

Kani; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the minister of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps; a group of military commanders and personnel of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps; and the mayor and governor general of Tehran. Hymns were sung in praise of the martyrs of the Khaybar operations. Afterward, a relative of Martyr Hajj Ebrahim Hemmat spoke on the bravery, courage, and good character of this honorable martyr.

Continuing the ceremonies, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi paid tribute to the bravery of the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts. In connection with the continuation of the struggle against the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist regime, the prime minister said: In these sensitive moments, any compromise, retreat, or stoppage of the struggle would be treachery. If we were to give up resistance, Islam would receive a blow and would go backward.

Referring to the gains of the Islamic Revolution across the world, he condemned the financial and military aid of the superpowers in support of Saddam's regime. He added: Today, weapons, arms, equipment, and dollars are placed at the disposal of the Iraqi regime to continue the war; some ports in the Persian Gulf and the port of Aqaba in Jordan are used to deliver arms to Saddam's forces in order to prolong the life of this puppet regime for a few more days.

The prime minister continued: Today, the reactionary Arab regimes and Western countries are repaying the debts of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime; they have allocated various funds to this regime, not being certain whether their investment would ever return to their pockets. They have joined hands in the hope of preventing the victory of the Islamic Revolution in the war.

Referring to American threats to the region, he said: If American threats to the region are not helping Iraq, what else are they? If America and other arrogant powers contemplate attacking our country, they should know that they will confront a nation which would turn the region into a marshland for them. They are not capable of understanding our nation; all their analyses of our nation have been wrong.

Referring to the fact that the Soviet mass media have not reported the use of chemical bombs by the Iraqi regime, the prime minister said: Why has the Soviet Union not reported even a single word on this issue at a time when world public opinion has turned against the Iraqi regime's use of chemical bombs? Could there be any greater support?

Later in his address, Musavi referred to allegations of weapons shipments from the Zionist regime to Iran as being a conspiracy against our nation. Referring to the expansion of the Islamic Revolution and its eradication of all U.S. interests in the region, he said: The Islamic Revolution has nullified all political and economic facts and the balance between the superpowers; it is a thundering roar among the deprived and oppressed masses. Today, this revolution has shown that it is possible to put into practice the slogan of independence from the East and the West and that it is possible to stand against the superpowers and achieve victory with the weapon of faith.

The prime minister continued: If the warriors of Islam were to end this war with victory, the United States would no longer be able to control the billions of Muslim masses and would face further onslaught from them and other masses.

Concluding his remarks, Musavi referred to the movements of the Muslim people of Morocco and Lebanon as an example of the Islamic Revolution's expansion across the world. Referring to the importance of ending the war with victory by the warriors of Islam, he said: We must end this war with victory to safeguard the interests of the Islamic Revolution inside our borders and the interests of Muslims along all Islamic borders. The prime minister added: We are guardians of martyrs' blood throughout the world, and if the Islamic Revolution gains victory in this war, it will change the destiny of all Muslims and liberate them from the claws of the superpowers and their puppets.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,670

*LD191724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
19 Mar 84*

[Communique No 1,670 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, exchanges of sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between the fighters of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on all fronts of the imposed war, from the most northern to the most southern position in the operational zone in the Arvand Rud area. By continuing their defensive actions and by safeguarding the area under their protection, the fighters of Islam opened fire on enemy artillery and tank positions, defense lines, and supply routes, silencing the fire of Saddam's forces and setting fire to and destroying enemy defensive positions and trenches. By sending out patrol groups and setting up new observation posts, the forces of Islam watched the engineering, operational, and supply activities of the Ba'thist mercenaries, thus making it possible for our forces to inflict the necessary deadly blows at an opportune moment.

In the Khaybar operational area, our forces continued to further reinforce, strengthen, and consolidate their positions. At 0230 yesterday, an enemy battalion in the Sumar region attempted to infiltrate the defensive positions and front lines of our forces from a number of axes, but by discovering their positions and then controlling their activities, the vigilant forces of Islam opened fire on the Iraqi forces and inflicted considerable losses and casualties upon them, forcing them to flee.

With the execution of artillery fire on enemy positions and units on the Arvand Rud fronts, the forces of Islam halted enemy movements and activities. In the area under the control of our Gendarmerie forces, Iraqi casualties and losses included the death and injury of some of their personnel and the destruction of 12 heavy and light weapons bunkers and another target. [as heard]

Artillery and long-range weapons fire by the Iraqi mercenaries against the city of Abadan resulted in more than 20 houses, shops, and other buildings being damaged.

Iraqi MIG-23 Shot Down in Hoveyze 20 March

*LD201106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
20 Mar 84*

[Text] The Islamic Republic Joint Chiefs of Staff announced: At 1045 hours this morning, one Iraqi MIG-23 was shot down in the Hoveyze region by Iranian anti-aircraft battery and Islamic Republic Air Force jets.

Information Official: U.S. Doesn't Dare Enter Region

GF151143 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 84 p 2

[Report on interview with Dr Kamal Kharrazi, managing director of IRNA and head of War Information Department, with KEYHAN correspondent in Ahvaz — date not given]

[Excerpt] The head of the War Information Department stressed the fact that if the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf are endangered, then there is no reason that the interests of others should not also be.

Referring to the latest reports in regard to the possibility of U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf, he said: To justify their activities and plots against the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the world and especially to the people of the region, naturally, the Americans try to create a suitable atmosphere so that they can win over public opinion in the region. Of course, we are not frightened by such preparations because the United States cannot do anything against us in the region.

Referring to U.S. defeats in Lebanon, Dr Kharrazi said: The United States, in view of its recent experience in Lebanon, knows very well to what extent U.S. soldiers are hated in the region, especially by Muslims. No Muslim in the region will tolerate the presence of an American. Who knows, the Americans themselves may already know this, and in addition to confronting the Muslim people of Iran, their intervention in the region may awaken all the Muslim nations of the region.

In referring to the spirit of sacrifice and selflessness by the Muslim people of Iran and the victorious Islamic combatants, he said: If the United States goes mad and enters the region and lands troops, it would mean that our war has just started. From that very moment, we will aim our guns, which are now targeted against Saddam, toward his masters, the Americans.

He added: God be praised. Our combatants are not frightened by threats, plots, or even U.S. military intervention. Our combatants are ready to give a decisive reply to U.S. aggression.

He added: The fact of the matter is that the United States does not dare enter the region. Therefore, what is taking place is nothing more than plotting against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The day the United States enters the region will be the day it is disgraced.

Khomeyni Pardons Prisoners To Mark Anniversary
LD191354 Tehran IRNA in English 1320 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — On the eve of the sixth spring of freedom, (six years since the Feb. 1979 revolution), many prisoners throughout the country have been pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The pardoned groups of prisoners are being released gradually. In Semnan and Shahrud, two cities in Semnan province, a group of 64 prisoners were released today. In Kerman, capital city of Kerman province also, 86 were released Sunday. Another 80 prisoners, including ex-members of some deviated splinter groups were released from prisons Sunday, in Birjand, in Khorrasan province.

Prime Minister Addresses Nation on New Year
LD191642 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 19 Mar 84

[Text] Tehran March 19 IRNA — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi after Sunday's cabinet meeting, the last in the Iranian year 1362 (ending March 21), in a message to the nation said that in this year many problems had been solved.

In a realistic judgement, he said, these issues would not have been solved in absence of the divine aid and the assistance of the Iranian people. The government, he added, has been trying to be on the side of the people both at times of happiness and hardships.

Prime Minister Musavi said that the entire world, in one way or the other, has been mobilised against the Islamic revolution of Iran. However, he said, despite all these vicious attempts, the Islamic Republic has been gaining more strength.

On his government's programs for the coming (Iranian) year (to start March 21) he said in the next year one of the wishes of the Iranian people will come true, that is the implementation of the new Islamic banking system.

On the role of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, he said that one of the manifestations of these roles was in Lebanon where the U.S., the Zionist regime and the Phalangists were slapped in the face. The Islamic revolution whose destruction the big powers wished, and the people were able to drive American forces out Lebanon. [sentence as received] He further added that "we consider this a success for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world."

Assessing relations of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Third World countries, he said that these ties have been further expanded, further adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran is looked upon as a stable system in the world. He expressed hope that more achievements would be gained by the Iranian nation and government in the coming year.

Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Operations

Farah Province

LD171824 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] Zahedan, March 17, IRNA — Following a three-day offensive carried out by the joint Soviet and Afghan Government troops, against 8 villages of Farah province, on Feb. 24, over 70 joint forces troops were killed and large numbers of them injured in heavy battle with the Afghan mujahideen and the villages. Also several tanks and vehicles of the joint forces were destroyed in the said encounter.

Informed Afghan sources further said that in a retaliatory move by the joint Soviet and Afghan forces, the said villages were heavily pounded by artillery aircraft and helicopter gunships martyring a number of innocent people of the villages.

Herat Province

GF171950 Tehran Television Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Mar 84

[Text] A dispatch from Afghanistan indicates that in an attack in Herat Province, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries captured 14 government Army personnel last week. The revolutionaries also captured a large number of intact weapons.

Arak Court Sentences Tudeh Party Members
LD151548 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 15 Mar 84

[Text] Arak, March 15, IRNA — On the verdict of the Islamic revolution's court of central province of Arak, some 14 members of the outlawed Tudeh Party were sentenced to prison terms, ranging from 2 to 10 years.

The convicts were from the cities of Arak, Khomeyn, Mahallat and Delijan, and were arrested by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) during the month of Orbidehesht (21 April-21 May) last year.

On May 14, 1983, the prosecutor general of the Islamic Revolution Court announced that 1,500 members of the defunct Tudeh Party had so far been arrested throughout the country, the arrestees were from Lahijan, Shiraz, Gilan, Khoy, Bushehr, Lorestan, Gorgan, and other places.

On February 25, 1984, ten members of the military wing of the dissolved Tudeh Party were executed.

It is to be noted the trial of the members of Central Committee of the outlawed Tudeh Party has not yet begun.

Marxist Group Members Surrender, Recant*LD171912 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 17 Mar 84*

[Text] Orumiyeh, March 17, IRNA — In Piranshah south of here four hundred ex-members of rebel Marxist groups some of them ex-leaders have voluntarily surrendered themselves to the Islamic forces since March 21, 1983 and abjured their former convictions after learning more about the immoral principles of their outlawed parties.

In other parts of Iran, too, many other former members of Marxist groups have voluntarily reported to law enforcement officials since then and abjured their former convictions.

Montazeri on 'Distortion' of Islamic Issues*LD141452 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] Islamic Guidance Minister Khatami, accompanied by the authors of the books of the year in various fields, and by Iran's cultural representatives in foreign countries, yesterday met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. First, the Islamic guidance minister introduced the authors and submitted a report about cultural activities in foreign countries. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, praising their work, said:

Since the beginning of the victory of the revolution, I repeatedly have said that it would have been very useful if from those early days a number of wise and learned groups had explained the intellectual and social positions of the Islamic Revolution for different countries of the world. If this had been done, counter-revolutionaries and those who did not believe in any fundamental transformation in the country would not have been able to deceive world public opinion and forge strange lies against our great revolution and make us use our energies to defend ourselves and our revolution. Although nearly 5 years have passed since the revolution, we should now make use of this opportunity and carry out this great responsibility.

Referring to propaganda waged by the enemies of Islam to distort the aggressions of Saddam's regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said: Unashamedly, the world ignored Saddam's

clear aggression against our country and the occupation of our border cities and presented us as the aggressor. Now, nearly 4 years have passed since the start of that aggression. Although we have no aim except to repulse the aggression and confront that dangerous regime, world propaganda still distorts the truth about the war and is still not prepared to accept the fact that our nation has been wronged.

Concerning the distortion of great Islamic issues by reactionary governments such as Saudi Arabia which, unfortunately, present themselves as the standard-bearers of Islam, the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: The Saudi Government, by spending vast sums of money, is trying to divert world public opinion about Islam and its vital issues and is trying to present Islam exactly in accordance with U.S. views and to limit it to a number of religious slogans without any content; it is, in fact, precisely following the wishes of imperialism which separates religion from politics and social issues of various nations. Under such conditions, our responsibilities, especially the responsibilities of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, are considerable.

Therefore, we expect the government to further strengthen its cultural institutes in foreign countries and brother officials should also not limit their propaganda to the distribution of a few posters. They should try to get fully acquainted with the cultures, languages, and customs of the countries to which they are accredited and should present in those languages and cultures the truths about Islam and our revolution in a logical manner, free from mere slogans, and with a scientific and rational content.

Consultative Assembly Approves 1984 Budget*LD151134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Mar 84*

[Excerpt] The country's budget for 1363 [year beginning 21 March] has been approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. According to a report by our correspondent, the Majlis, chaired by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, discussed notes proposed by deputies concerning the budget for the year 1363. The budget consisting of a single article and 77 notes was voted and approved by a decisive majority.